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THE SECRETS OF
**Batman
Forever**

On The Town

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INSIDE BATMAN

20 SECRETS FROM W



It's show time again in Gotham City, and Batman's got a brand-new bag. His new Batsuit is totally buff; his sidekick, Robin, is no longer a trippy nerd; and he's got enough funky gadgets to open his own Sharper Image outlet. But what really separates *Batman Forever*



from previous caped crusades — aside from director Joel Schumacher and a cast including Val Kilmer, Jim Carrey,

BY DAVID HOCHMAN

Tommy Lee Jones and Nicole Kidman — is the

Dark Knight's personal struggle. More than anything, he wants to know who he is. "Why not Eagleman?" asks Schumacher. "Why not Canaryman? Why Batman?" As he searches for his inner bat, he flies through a phantasmagoric new landscape, designed by hundreds of technicians and artists.

Here's our guide to the behind-the-scenes action.

1 Zowie, Batman! What an impressive **CODPIECE** you have! Though they say size doesn't really matter, the latest Dark Knight (and his Boy Wonder) seem particularly well equipped. "With Batman, you can't have a small basket," says costume designer Bob Ringwood. Adds director Joel Schumacher, "I don't know whether it's a tribute to Chris O'Donnell's masculinity or whether he paid off the sculptor." The codpieces were built with an emergency escape hatch: The stars could flip them up, exposing a little zipper, when they needed to carry on their natural processes. What a relief!

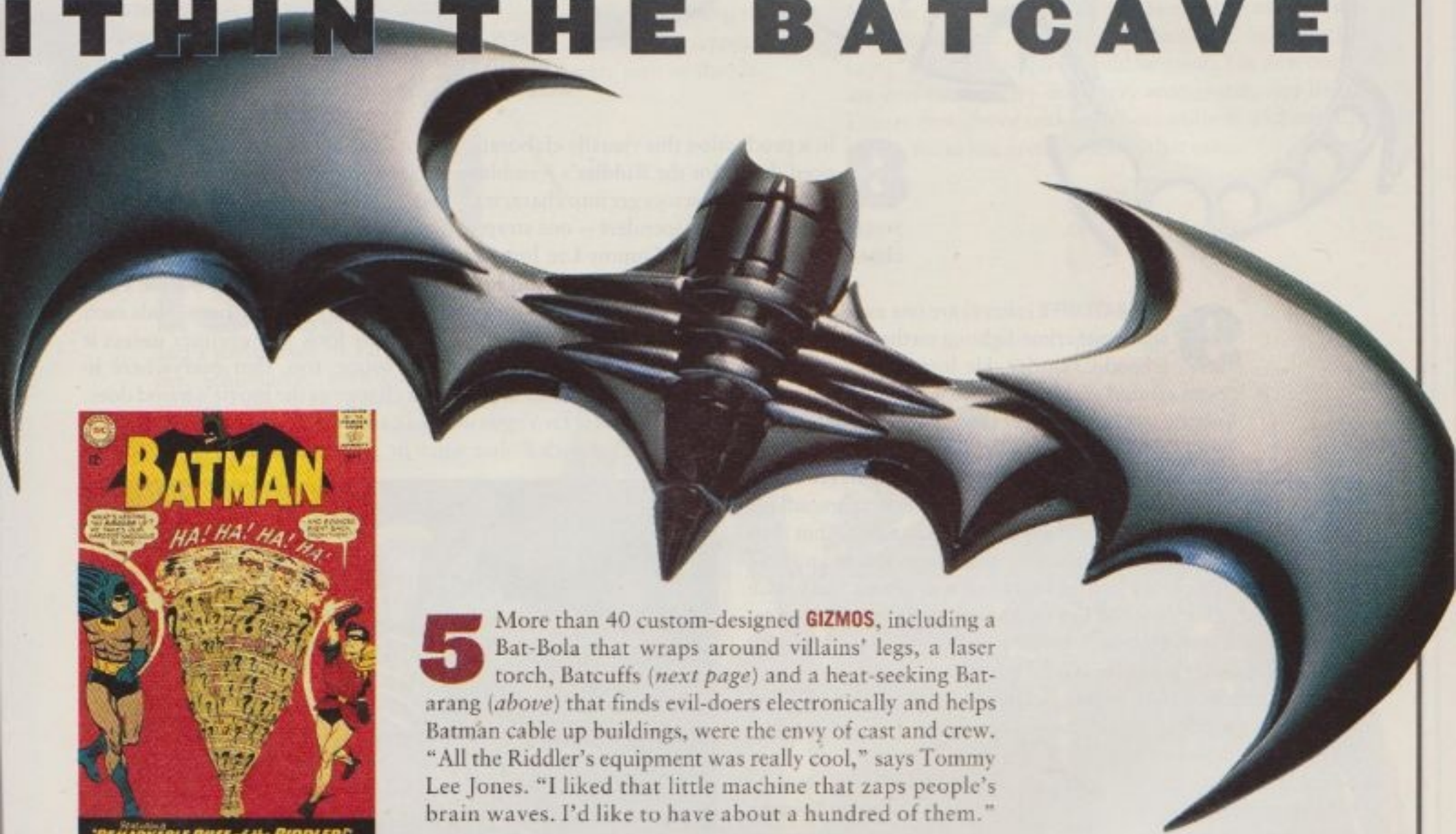
2 Even before Chris O'Donnell crashed it during an on-set joy ride, it was clear that the **BATMOBILE** wasn't just some souped-up Cor-doba. Production designer Barbara Ling and her team created a vehicle that was 20 feet long, clocked in at over 140 mph and shot flames out of its tail. They did neglect one detail, however. At the last minute, engineers had to add three extra inches of headroom — for Batman's ears.

3 Jim Carrey began training to use the **RIDDLER'S CANE** months before shooting started. "It became like a second skin for him," says Ling, who gave Carrey some prop models before he was ready for the 15-pound movie version. In the movie, the cane finds the Batcave's hidden entrance and unlocks a safe. It also signs \$7 million contracts.



BATMAN'S CLOSET

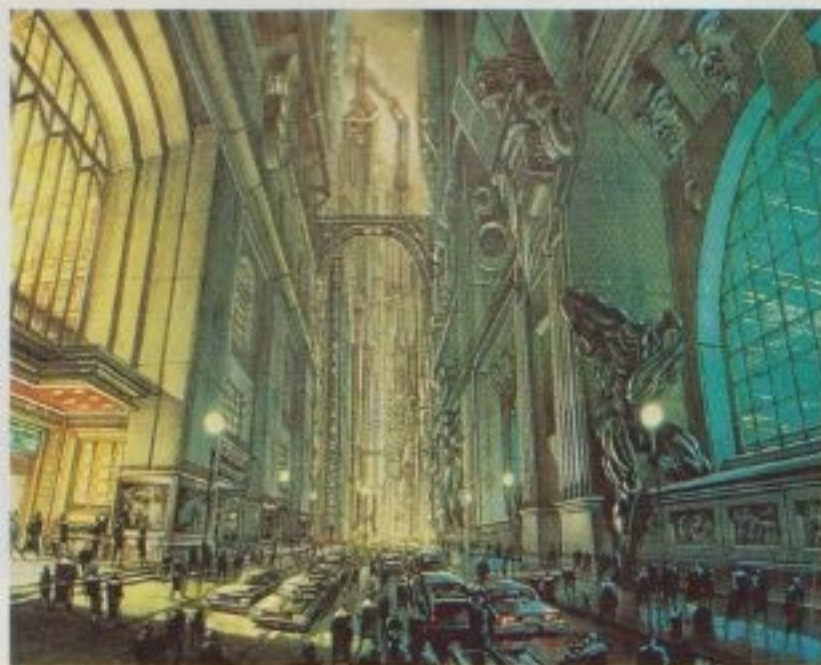
WITHIN THE BATCAVE



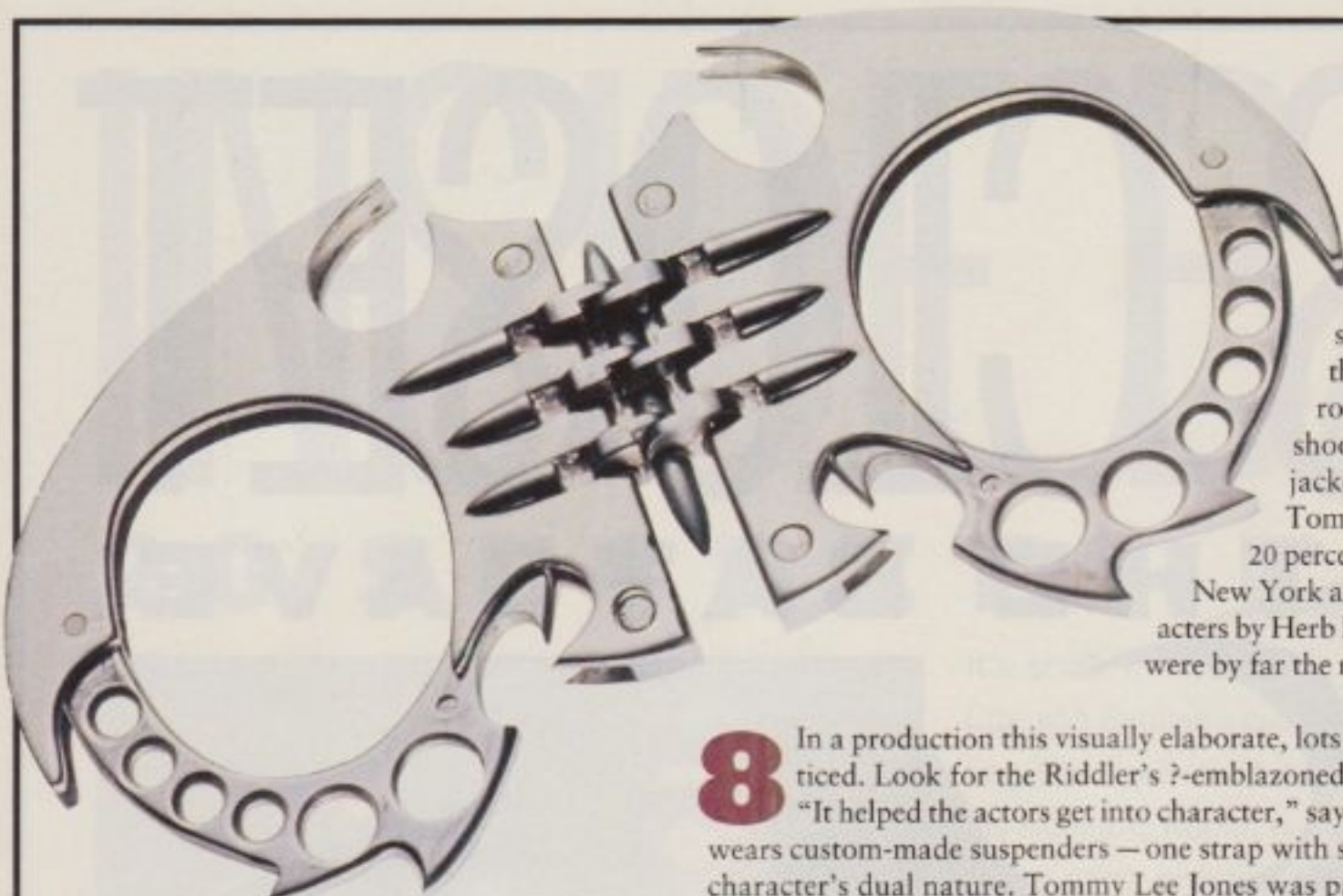
5 More than 40 custom-designed **GIZMOS**, including a Bat-Bola that wraps around villains' legs, a laser torch, Batcuffs (*next page*) and a heat-seeking Bat-arang (*above*) that finds evil-doers electronically and helps Batman cable up buildings, were the envy of cast and crew. "All the Riddler's equipment was really cool," says Tommy Lee Jones. "I liked that little machine that zaps people's brain waves. I'd like to have about a hundred of them."

4 "We were like kids in a comic store," says Schumacher about creating his "living comic strip." He, Kilmer, Carrey and even the normally serious Tommy Lee Jones immersed themselves in hundreds of DC Comics, dating back to 1939. "They make you feel like jumping and scaling buildings with Batman, and that's the effect we wanted," Schumacher says. Other production **MUSES** were less predictable. The designs of Hitler's architect, Albert Speer, and of Japanese futurists were the models for the construction of Gotham. Photos of tribal tattoos inspired the creation of the Day-Glo Gang, a group of Gotham thugs. And when designers were envisioning the Batmobile, they watched a 1952 University of Chicago film about bats flying through tunnels.

6 Bringing **GOTHAM CITY** (*below, in a sketch*) to life required no fewer than 98 sets (compared with 15 in *Batman* and just 7 in *Batman Returns*). They also shot on location near Wall Street, where, says Barbara Ling, "the buildings are high, but the streets are narrow," which helped make the city look 600 feet tall. Colored steam and smoke obscured



the bottoms of buildings, so there was no telling where they began or ended. Plywood barricades kept *paparazzi* out. "It was sort of ridiculous," says Ling, "because people in the buildings above could just look down and see." Says Tommy Lee Jones: "I felt like a gangster. They were holding up screens to keep people from photographing me. They'd pile me into a car with the windows blacked out and drive me a couple of blocks."



7 **THEFT** is often the first sign of a movie's success. Just prior to production, 81 storyboard sketches, valued at more than \$4,000, were stolen from a locked room at Warner Bros. studios. During shooting, someone nabbed two Riddler jackets and hats, along with a hat from Tommy Lee Jones' wardrobe. More than 20 percent of the film's bus-shelter posters in New York and L.A., featuring photos of the characters by Herb Ritts, were also pilfered. Jim Carrey's were by far the most desirable.

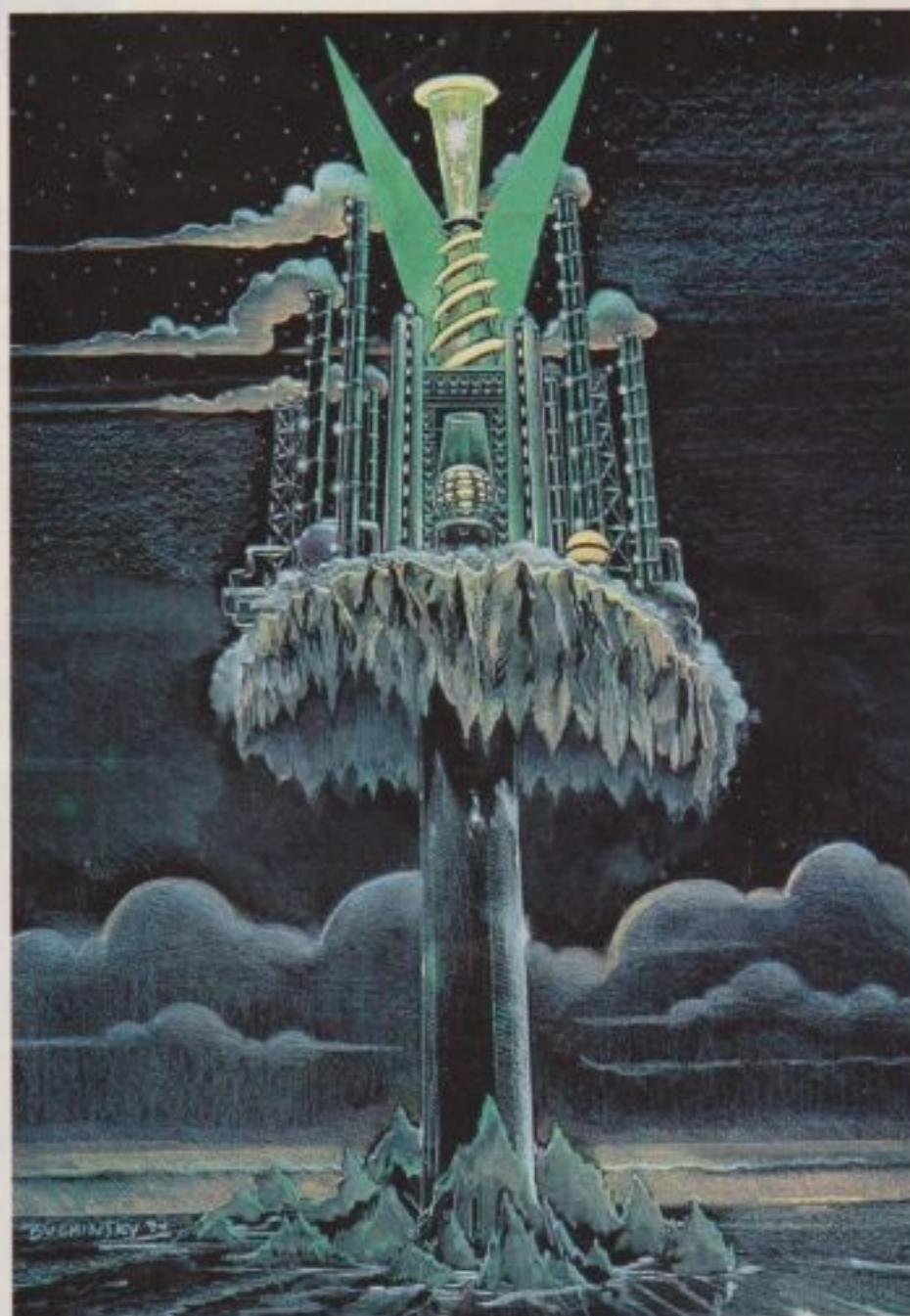
8 In a production this visually elaborate, lots of **COOL DETAILS** may flash by unnoticed. Look for the Riddler's ?-emblazoned underwear, socks, belts and shoes. "It helped the actors get into character," says Bob Ringwood. Harvey Two-Face wears custom-made suspenders — one strap with skulls, the other plain, reflecting the character's dual nature. Tommy Lee Jones was particularly fond of Two-Face's yin-and-yang-shaped cuff links. Debi Mazar, playing Two-Face's gun moll, Spice, had tiny crystals painstakingly glued to her eyelids each day. "It's the kind of thing that may look like eyeliner unless it catches some light," she says. Notice, too, that everywhere in Gotham, the statues' expressions change as the movie's mood does. And yes, that is *En Vogue* doing a cameo as a gang of streetwise kids who meet up with Robin when he's trying to steal the Batmobile.

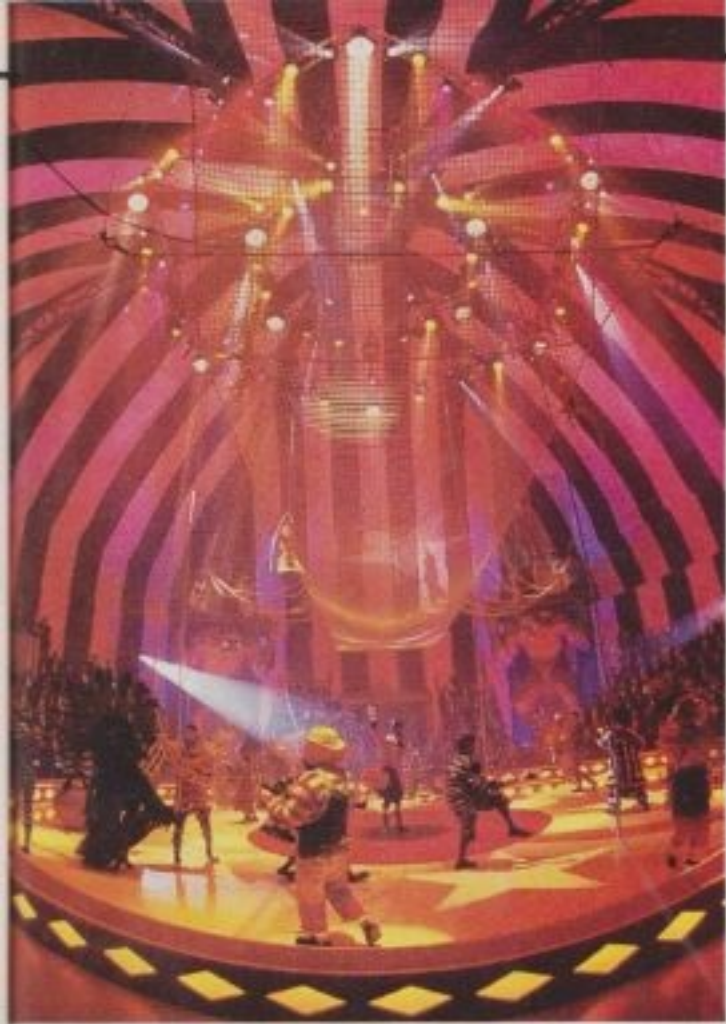
9 The **BATCUFFS** (above) are one example of the space-age crime-fighting methods used by the Caped Crusader. He tosses them out, they zoom around and land on the wrists of bad guys. If only the NYPD could get their hands on these.

10 Until *Batman Forever*, **ROBIN'S OUTFIT** never really made sense. "Batman's suit is the perfect camouflage for the dark night," says Joel Schumacher, "but then you have this goofy sidekick in scarlet red, lemon yellow and lime green." Robin's colors had to be toned way down, and once Chris O'Donnell (below) signed on, the crew went to work on reimagining the Boy Wonder's nerdy persona. They gave him an earring, a muscley costume, a cool-guy crew cut and even a vintage motorcycle, a 1948 Triumph. One problem, though: During meetings with the writers, Schumacher realized that a '90s guy like Robin wouldn't be caught dead on a bike without a helmet, most of which are butt-ugly. Turning to the cyberpunk community for inspiration, costume designer Ingrid Ferrin created a hipper head-piece, complete with a flying red robin on it.

11 The **RIDDLER'S LAIR**, seen at right in a sketch, is home to former Wayne Enterprises employee (and current Bruce Wayne hater) Edward Nygma. At 80 feet high and 250 feet around, the lair had to be housed in the 140,000-square-foot dome in Long Beach, Calif., where Howard Hughes once kept his experimental plane, the Spruce Goose.

"The set is like nothing you've seen before," says Barbara Ling. "It's an orb that's always in motion. It's pulsating and filled with light and energy." A little like Jim Carrey himself.





13 The movie goes all out for two extravaganzas, a circus scene (*above*) and a party given by Edward Nygma. Schumacher even considered adding a role to the party scene for his friend **BONO**, who would have dressed up like his Mephistophelian incarnation from U2's Zooropa Tour. "We talked about making him Riddler's sidekick," says Schumacher. "But then I decided that when you have a famous singer, you almost need to stop the movie for four minutes to let him do his thing." Bono is on the soundtrack, though, with a song called "Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me, Kill Me."

12 As criminal psychologist and love interest Dr. Chase Meridian, Nicole Kidman creates a new case study for fashion-conscious Freudians. "**IT'S VERONICA LAKE MEETS JESSICA RABBIT**," she explains, adding that her character is blessed with "perfect hair, perfect makeup and a dark side." For the gala ball at the Gotham City Hippodrome, she wears a mummyesque Herve Leger original (*right*) made of black elastic bandages (stolen from the psycho ward, no doubt). Dressing the 5-foot-10-inch Kidman wasn't easy. "Her slight upper body and long, long legs created a challenge," says Ingrid Ferrin. "New York designers were constantly sending new clothes over... and we also had to service Nicole's shoe fetish." Sometimes Kidman found herself in her trailer trying on 30 different pairs at a time. Obviously the shoes fit: Kidman got to keep everything she wore. She also had her eye on other costumes, it seems. "I wouldn't mind having that Batsuit," she says. "I probably wouldn't fit into it, but it would be fun to put on somebody. My husband, perhaps." And he is...?

14 Where exactly does one study to become a **BATSUIT WRANGLER**? Gotham Design Academy, perhaps? The secret lies with Dave Murch, a veteran costumer of all three Batman films, who was in charge of maintaining up to 40 duplicates of both the Batman and the Robin costumes (cast from fiberglass body moldings of Kilmer and O'Donnell). Murch was part of a team of 30 costumers who helped design, chisel and glue on the slick, body-hugging outfits. Made partly of foam rubber, the suits were fairly fragile: After wire rigging was strung through them for flying scenes, their backs were torn to shreds.

15 The **NIPPLE CONTROVERSY** surprised everyone, especially Schumacher. What happened was this: Under orders from Schumacher, Jose Fernandez sculpted nipples into the anatomically correct Batman and Robin suits. When Batman creator Bob Kane found out, he went batty, and word spread through the media that the Caped Crusader was having a nipple problem. "After Sharon Stone uncrossed her legs and showed her stuff in *Basic Instinct*," Schumacher says, "I thought nipples would be passé. The new outfits are very tactile, very sexy, very anatomical, very living. I never thought of making a human form without nipples." We're not going to touch that one.



16 Creating **THE RIDDLES** required a prince of puzzlers: Will Shortz, the *New York Times* crossword editor, was hired to write four rhyming brain-teasers. "After I had done three over the course of several days, the studio said they needed another one overnight," he says. "I couldn't believe a multimillion-dollar movie worked like this." The riddles grow ever more elaborate. The first appears on an envelope, the next on an ornately cut piece of paper, the next in a box (*below*), which contains a miniature tennis game — and enough explosives to make plenty of racket. Shortz knew none of this. The studio would not reveal, even to him, the exact answers. "It was a highly unusual constraint,"

says Shortz. The results, he adds, "are clear enough for anyone to understand, but tough enough that even puzzle experts will be challenged."



18 On any given day during the 108 days of shooting, Tommy Lee Jones might easily have been confused

with Tammy Faye Bakker. As Harvey Two-Face, a villain literally divided by good and evil, he spent nearly four hours each morning in the **MAKEUP** chair, getting half of his body covered with layers of latex. "You saw *Alien*, didn't you?" he says. "Where the little thing jumped out of the guy's chest and gloms onto his face? It was like being that guy all day, every day." For Debi Mazar

(*left in photo*), who plays Spice, the nasty half of Two-Face's divided love life (Drew Barrymore, *at right*, plays her opposite number, Sugar), the problem was not so much getting the makeup on but walking around in it. "I had to wear special purple contact lenses," she says. "I couldn't see anything except for a peep-hole. So I was a disaster." Jim Carrey kept the troops entertained during the arduous makeup sessions. "We were singing a lot in the trailer," Mazar says. "Everything from doo-wop to music of the girl groups of the '60s to Pearl Jam. He really can belt it out."

*Additional reporting by
Thomas Mournian and
Laura Morice*



17 Quick! To the **BATCAVE!** Well, actually, you'd better take it slow — it's a big place this time out, and you might get lost. The new Bat-pad (*pictured, clockwise from upper left, in a sketch, under construction and in the movie*) took 130 crew members 5 months to build and stands 3 stories tall and 200 feet wide — making it one of the movie's smaller sets. Barbara Ling felt that audiences had not previously seen enough of the Batcave (little more than a control panel), so in *Batman Forever* we are taken to the lower cave, where the Batplane and Batboat are kept; to the middle level, which houses the original Batcave and figures prominently in a dream sequence; and to the upper cave, home of the Batmobile and crime lab. We're just trying to figure out where they're keeping Tim Burton and Michael Keaton.

19 True to his name, the Caped Crusader wears more than 30 different **CAPIES**. Says Bob Ringwood, he has "swinging sexy capes," "jumping capes," "flying capes," "running capes," a "driving cape," even an "underwater cape" fitted with lead to keep the foam-rubber material from bubbling to the surface.

20 "We had FBI agents following us around for days," Joel Schumacher recalls. "I thought I'd done something terribly wrong." He soon realized they were just there to gawk. And they weren't the only **SET VISITORS**: Claudia Schiffer, Sylvester Stallone, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tom Cruise also stopped by. But it was Chris O'Donnell's sister's visit that Schumacher found most significant. "She made the mistake of telling me the nickname Chris' mother called him until he was 13," he says. "I got him to do anything I wanted by threatening to yell it over the bullhorn. All I'll tell you is, the initials are P.L." Hmm...Pickle Lips?

